

Pence Urges Hoosiers to Participate in Services

Washington, DC – U.S. Congressman Mike Pence offered the following statement for the record in the U.S. House of Representatives regarding Memorial Day:

"Mr. Speaker, Memorial Day has significant meaning to so many Americans. Unlike the day every fall when we thank those who fought and came home, Memorial Day is that day every spring when we remember those who didn't make it back.

"In a tradition that began just three years after the end of the Civil War, Americans set aside the 30th day of May each year to remember the sacrifice made by our service men and women who lost their lives in defense of freedom. Each one of those brave souls answered the call to duty, offering to give whatever it would take to keep us safe.

"On May 30, 1868, flowers were placed on the graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. This tradition continues to this day, as millions of Americans have continued to take part in this humble offer of thanks.

"It is our duty to make sure those who served and their families who endure the many stresses of military life know that we appreciate their willingness to sacrifice for our cause that is freedom. We can never repay the debt we owe, but we will continue to honor their service and sacrifice.

"I urge all Hoosiers to take time on Memorial Day to attend a local service remembering our fallen heroes and the families who have made freedom possible. We must mourn those who have fallen and pray for those who stand firmly in the face of unspeakable horrors at this very hour in place like Iraq and Afghanistan.

"As Americans, we inherit what Lincoln called in his first inaugural address the 'mystic chords of memory stretching from every patriot grave.' They bind us to the great and the humble, the

known and unknown, of Americans past.

"The brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces, both past and present, it was their duty to serve. As proud Americans, let this Memorial Day serve as a reminder that it is our duty to always remember those soldiers who have laid down such a sacrifice on our behalf."

[Click here for a list of some 2011 Memorial Day events in Indiana's 6th Congressional District](#)

Pence Addresses Veterans at a 2010 Memorial Day Event

